

TOWN OF IPSWICH - MASSACHUSETTS  
Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectmen  
Tuesday April 7, 2015  
Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in room A of the Ipswich Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Linda Alexson, Charles Surpitski, Michael Lambros, and Wayne Castonguay. Also present were Shellfish Constable Scott LaPreste, Police Chief Paul Nikas and Recording Secretary Marie Rodgers. Members Brenda Turner and David Swicker were not present.

**Citizen's Queries** – there were none.

**Constable's Report**

Constable LaPreste announced rain rules changed for N4 as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. The sea ice is slowly retreating. Regarding water testing in the Ipswich River, there is no new news; it remains closed. Although, one test was excellent, it won't affect the river, but it looks good on record when the state creates a model.

**Review of Rules and Regulations Edits:**

Ms. Alexson reviewed regulation proposals from March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and initiated discussion. One change discussed was changing the deadline for commercial permit applications to March 1<sup>st</sup>. Chief Nikas suggested amending at the Board of Selectmen hearing. Ms. Alexson encouraged attendance at the May 4 and 18 Board of Selectmen meetings.

**Green crab funding**

The Committee reviewed a letter to Representative Bradford R. Hill and Senator Bruce E. Tarr requesting funding for trapping green crabs (hereby incorporated by reference) it was written by Ms. Alexson, Mr. Surpitski and Mr. Castonguay. All agreed to print it on Shellfish letterhead, from the Chief's office and send it off.

**Oyster subcommittee recommendations**

Mr. Castonguay reviewed the recommendations: Ipswich Shellfish Subcommittee of the Selectman Oyster & Enforcement Subcommittee Draft Recommendations \*Confidential\* (hereby incorporated by reference) Discussion was held and recommendation number five initiated to a motion.

**MOTION:**

**Mr. Surpitski moved the Constable pursue to identify oyster beds with the Harbormaster and investigate as he feels appropriate to move the newer moorings out of that area. Mr. Lambros seconded. Discussion was held; the three long term moorings would be 'grandfathered' and allowed to remain.**

Chief will provide an update at the next meeting.

### Green crab plan for 2015 discussion

Mr. Castonguay reviewed a forum he attended on invasive green crabs, organized by State Sen. Bruce Tarr. Other than trapping, realistic solutions, implementation of new technology for extracting crab meat, creating recipes and viable European markets were discussed. Discussion ensued regarding funding and emerging markets.

Mr. Surpitski initiated discussion regarding the most effective time to trap, fall vs spring. Mr. Castonguay spoke to the inexact biology and opined that anytime is a good time to trap. Constable LaPreste indicated that he didn't have a problem with a split season, because weather causes a natural gap anyway.

Mr. Castonguay will contact Senator Tarr's office and ask to be added to the e-mail list for updates on the invasive species workshops.

Constable LaPreste reported on updated language for the Green Crab Eradication program. Applications will be available April 20 – 24; that information will be placed on the phone line. Mr. Castonguay requested trapping program focus on the Ipswich River and Plum Island Sound. He went on to explain that federal grant money has funded a Great Marsh project, partnered with 8-Towns & a Bay to eradicate green crabs in order to restore eelgrass beds in the Essex Bay area. Constable agreed and will coordinate with the Harbormaster for locating sites. Green Crab Harvesting Concept (herby incorporated by reference).

Further discussion was held regarding the Town acting as a bait dealer; there is no liability and no cost to the town; trappers will provide catch reports to DMF for purposes of data collection.

Discussion took place regarding bags, cost, types and numbers, last year 2000 bags were used at a cost of \$500. Ipswich Shellfish may not have the same bags available; the cost this year will be .75 cents a bag; no money from the Enhancement Fund is used for the green crab eradication program.

### MOTION

**Mr. Lambros moved to endorse the proposal to pay green crab trappers .30 cents a pound for harvest.**

**Mr. Castonguay seconded.** Discussion took place, this is the same program as last year .30/# is the only change. Timing of deadlines was discussed. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### Approval of minutes:

### MOTION:

Mr. Castonguay moved to approve the meeting minutes from February 3, 2015 and March 3, 2015. Mr. Lambros seconded, the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Next Meeting** –Tuesday, May 5, 2015 @ 7:30 PM in Room A

It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Rodgers

These minutes were approved on May 5, 2015.